of storage space required for holding it prior to a time when the image is to be displayed, by:

a)   generating a bitmap representing only [boundaries] boundary pixels in said image separating regions in said image, [said boundaries comprising pixels of saidc image, at least one of] said regions comprising image pixels of said image, each region between boundary pixels being composed of one of the textures;

b)   generating a pointer for each of said regions, each of said pointers associating its respective region with the one of said textures for the image in such region; and

c)   storing the bitmap of boundary pixels and the pointers defining the textures for the regions between boundary pixels in a memory coupled to the microprocessor for later use in displaying the image[, where the displayed image will include the pixels of the stored bitmap].

Please cancel claims 7 and 18 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action of September 15, 1998, the Examiner's thorough comments have been noted and studied. In a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance, the claims have been amended to distinguish the present invention from the Gentile (U.S. 5,539,865) and other prior art of record. Specifically, each of the claims recites the inventive features of the present invention.

According to the present invention, a digital image is compressed (claims 1, 14, 15 and 34) decompressed (claim 22) or displayed (claims 31 and 33). The digital image in this format is represented by a bitmap which represents boundary pixels separating regions of the image. The regions of the image between the boundary pixels represent digital image pixels of the image. Each region between boundary pixels is composed of one of the at least three textures in the digital image.

In addition to the bitmap which is generated, a pointer is generated for each of the regions. Each of the pointers associates its respective region with a specific one of the textures for the digital image in such region. The bitmap of boundary pixels and the pointers defining the textures for the regions between the boundary pixels is then stored for later use.

Figure 2 of the Gentile reference (U.S. 5,539,865) is the primary reference relied upon. Visual analysis of Figure 2 clearly indicates that each of the regions between boundaries in the page 30 shown in Figure 2 is composed of a wide variety of picture

components. See for example the image representation 48 which is defined as an "array of pixels of varying colors." (Column 5, lines 41-43 of Gentile).

In the techniques of Gentile an image region between boundaries is composed of a variety of image components. With the present invention, in contrast, boundary pixels in the image separate regions of the image, and each region between boundary pixels is composed of a specific one of the textures of the digital image.

As can be seen from Figure 3 of the drawings, a pallet of textures for an image and codes are represented. Using these textures and codes for the various regions shown in Figure 2, the techniques of the present invention may be used to form an image. Reference is made to page 7, lines 13 through page 9, line 13 of the specification of the present application. The technique of defining an image by boundaries which define regions, and with each region having a specific texture is clearly not shown or made obvious by Gentile or any of the prior art of record.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent claims 1, 14, 15, 22, 31, 33 and 34 are allowable over the prior art for reasons detailed above. Allowance and passage to issue of the present application is submitted to be in order. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
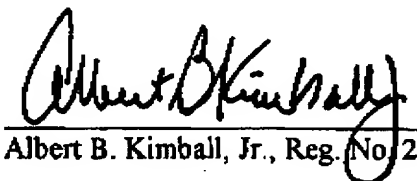
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